

volunteered to design and order T-shirts which enhanced our cohort's sense of unity. He unselfishly contributed his time and effort to serve as the election committee chairman for his organization representing readers, graders, tutors, and teaching assistants at UCI. I foresee Levi contributing much to the professional learning communities at his new school.

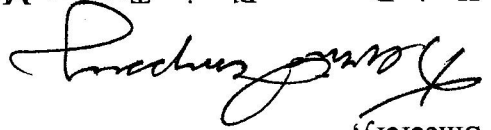
As Levi's university associate (master teacher) I have observed him working with my students for nearly a full school year. Back in the fall, after just a few weeks of careful observation, Levi volunteered to take on a more active role in my classes. In the beginning, we worked in tandem during laboratory activities and Levi moved with ease from one group to another engaging the students one on one. He monitored their progress, answered their questions and checked their understanding. In subsequent lessons he prepared the students for their lab work by introducing the lesson, demonstrating proper laboratory technique and promoting the idea that physics is much more fun and exciting when students get their hands on the materials and explore phenomena themselves.

During the second semester, Levi took full command of my two college prep classes. He was quickly accepted, liked and respected by the students. With the relaxed style of a veteran, he effortlessly interjects humor into his presentations and is extraordinary in his ability to relate abstract concepts to the real world. He complements the students' natural curiosity with his exceptional physics content knowledge and broad interests which allow him to make interdisciplinary connections that students might never consider on their own. His youth, vigor and passion help him relate well with the students while maintaining a professional manner.

Levi Simons has a clear vision for his teaching career. He plans to teach physics at a Title I high school in southern California next year. This semester he has been assisting in a remedial math class and is also planning to earn a math credential. He has already made inquiries with the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) regarding participation as an associate researcher on the CHICOS (California High School Cosmic Ray Observatory) experiment.

Teachers like me with 33 years of experience will not be around for many more years. We need replacements with the enthusiasm, preparation and passion of Ariel Levi Simons. He is the quintessential candidate for a school seeking a physics teacher with the added value of being able to teach math. Levi Simons will be a valuable addition to your staff and an asset to the teaching profession. I recommend him unequivocally. Please feel free to contact me by mail, email or phone if necessary.

Sincerely,



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